

# ACT NOW! NEWSLETTER

## Policy Updates

For a list of previously listed policy updates, click [here](#).

## Trainings and Events

### Youth Development, Programming, and Activities

#### Adolescent Development Explained: Social Connections

HHS Office of Population Affairs: watch this previously recorded **webinar** to learn from adolescent health experts about the new social roles, expanding social circles, and online interactions experienced by today's adolescents. Participants will also learn how youth-serving professionals and other adults can support healthy social development.

[Register Here:](#)

#### Youth Participatory Evaluation

What are best practices for involving young people in evaluation and research? Here are **guides, toolkits**, and other **resources** gathered by ACT for Youth to aid the understanding and practice of youth participatory evaluation.

[Register Here:](#)

#### Kids can Test Drive Social Media Safely with New Simulations

Social Media TestDrive is an **interactive educational platform** that created Cornell University's Social Media Lab in collaboration with Common Sense Education. TestDrive lets young people learn and practice digital citizenship skills through a social media simulation. Each TestDrive module teaches a specific social media skill, such as managing privacy settings, smart self-presentation, upstanding to cyberbullying, and news literacy.

**[Register Here:](#)**

*To view ACT Now's calendar of events, click **[here.](#)***

## Youth Opportunities

The *World of 7 Billion* student video contest brings technology and creativity into middle and high school classes. The contest challenges students to create a short video connecting human population growth to one of three global challenges: ***Sustaining Water Systems, Ensuring Economic Opportunities and Improving Climate Resiliency.*** 80+ cash prizes of up to \$1,000 will be awarded, and participating educators will receive free curriculum resources. The deadline for submissions is February 27, 2020 – use this **[lesson plan](#)** to get started now! Full contest guidelines, resources for research, past winners, and more can be found **[here.](#)**

*For an archive of our previously listed Youth Opportunities, click **[here.](#)***

## Opportunities for Providers

### **Request to Complete Illinois School Health Services District Survey**

**[Healthy Schools Campaign \(HSC\)](#)** is conducting a **[statewide survey](#)** for school districts to assess the current landscape of school health services across Illinois and identify current challenges and opportunities with providing critical health services to students. Completing this survey will provide valuable information regarding how school health services are currently being delivered and funded in Illinois. The results of this survey will inform recommendations to the state supporting policies and programs to expand access to and provide resources for school health services in schools. Your district's participation will help ensure the individual needs of your district are included and addressed in these recommendations.

The deadline to complete the survey is Jan. 17. HSC will host an informational webinar to review the survey in greater detail on Dec. 17. To learn more, access the survey, and register for the webinar, please visit the [HSC website](#).

*For an archive of our previously listed Opportunities for Providers, click [here](#).*

## Funding Opportunities

*For an archive of our previously listed Funding Opportunities, [click here](#).*

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## Call for Resources

Do you have valuable resources, stories, or best practices to share with the afterschool field? Please click [here](#) to share your resources with ACT Now and we will disseminate them (via our newsletter and website) to other providers across the state! If you have any questions, please contact Emma Vibber (ACT Now - Quality and Professional Development Specialist) [VibberE@actnowillinois.org](mailto:VibberE@actnowillinois.org)

**NOTE: We are now sorting our trainings and resources by the Core Areas in the Illinois Statewide Afterschool Quality Standards to promote better understanding and implementation of the Standards. Dark blue headings denote a Core Area. To learn more about the Quality Standards, click [here](#).**

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